

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7067

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6458

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS OVIP (VAKY, VIRON P.)

SUBJECT VISIT BY AMBASSADOR VAKY TO BUENOS AIRES

REF: STATE 211039

1. IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF REFTEL TODAY, I CONTACTED GENERAL VIOLA AND MET WITH HIM IN HIS OFFICE AT 12:30 HRS. PRIOR TO POLITICAL WINDS BECOMING SO CHILLY, I USED TO MEET GENERAL VIOLA ON A REGULAR BASIS. USUALLY VIOLA ALWAYS EXUDED FRIENDLINESS. TODAY, HE WAS SOMBER AND NO SMILE.

2. I BROKE THE CHILL BY STATING MY MISSION WAS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP. I EXPLAINED THE SECRETARY WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS. I EXPLAINED IT WAS TIME TO DIALOGUE AGAIN AND CLEAR THE AIR OF IRRITANTS. AS PER REFTEL, I MENTIONED OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD FAR EXCEED THE OCT 1 DATELINE. VIOLA, IN A RELUCTANT SMILE, SAID "YOU ACCUSE US OF TAKING TEN STEPS FORWARD AND NINE BACKWARDS, BUT NOW IT IS USG TAKING TEN STEPS FORWARD AND ELEVEN BACKWARD". HE CLARIFIED HIS REMARK BY SAYING SOME OF USG'S RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS VIOLATE ALL TRADITIONAL RULES OF DIPLOMACY ON FRIENDSHIP.

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3. I THEN REMINDED VIOLA THAT WE HAVE A NEW ASST. SECT. OF LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE ASKED ME IF I KNEW AMB. VAKY. I REPLIED ASST. SECT. VAKY HAD BEEN A PERSONAL FRIEND OF LONG STANDING AND WAS EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF LATIN AMERICA. I ADDED AMB. VAKY HAD BEEN WITH THE EMBASSY IN ARGENTINA. THIS PLEASED VIOLA GREATLY.

4. I THEN EMPHASIZED USG-GOA GOOD RELATIONSHIP WAS ONE OF LONG STANDING. I CONTINUED SAYING WE MUST ONCE AGAIN RESTORE THAT MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. I SUGGESTED TO VIOLA AMB. VAKY HAD SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO GET BACK ON TRACK, AND THAT HE WISHED TO REVISIT ARGENTINA AND MEET WITH KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. I TOLD VIOLA THE TIME PERIOD OF SEPT. 1 - 8 HAD BEEN SUGGESTED FOR A VAKY VISIT. IT WOULD BE A THREE-DAY VISIT SO AS TO BROADEN HIS BASE ON CALLS.

5. I THEN INQUIRED IF GOA WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE ASST. SECT. VAKY ON ANY OF THOSE DATES. ALSO, IF THE ANSWER WAS AFFIRMATIVE COULD VAKY VISIT WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA. VIOLA REPLIED HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR PRESIDENT VIDELA AT THAT MOMENT NOR COULD HE MAKE A DECISION. VIOLA SAID HE WOULD BE CONTACTING VIDELA THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH HIM. VIOLA STATED HE, PERSONALLY, WOULD WELCOME VAKY'S VISIT. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER THE TIMING OF THE VISIT. VIOLA LOOKED AT ME AND SAID "YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB IN INFLAMING THE PASSIONS OF ARGENTINES. THE MAN ON THE STREET IS CRITICAL OF USG AND YOUR GOVT HAS GIVEN "HARD-LINERS" IN MY ARMY A NEW CAUSE FOR PURSUING A TOUGH STAND". VIOLA SAID HE FEARED THE MEDIA MIGHT TAKE A NEGATIVE STAND ON HAVING ANOTHER HIGH USG OFFICIAL VISIT ARGENTINA AT A TIME NOT TOO PROPITIOUS.

6. VIOLA THEN REMINDED ME THAT IN MY SHORT DURATION IN
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ARGENTINA SECT. VANCE, ASST. SECT. TODMAN AND DERIAN, UNDER SECT, NEWSOM AND SCORES OF CONGRESSMEN HAD MADE THEIR TREK OF GOOD-WILL OR INSPECTION. HE SAID "PERSONALIDADES" (VIP'S) COME AND GO AND YET THERE ARE NOT POSITIVE RESULTS. HE SAID HE FEARED THE MEDIA MIGHT EMBARRASS ALL CONCERNED.

7. VIOLA THEN SAID IT WAS NOT HIS DECISION TO MKE. HE SAID THAT AFTER CONSULTING VIDELA THEN THE PROPOSITION WOULD BE KICKED AROUND FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS TO GIVE IT A CAREFUL STUDY. VIOLA SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW THEIR DECISION.

8. COMMENT. I AM HEARTENED BY YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. I FEAR THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER IS UNTIMELY FOR A VISIT ON CONSIDERING PREVALENT EMOTIONALISM, WHICH CONTINUES TO GENERATE DEGREES OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. THE TIMING IS TOO DIFFICULT. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM CAME WITH A SIMILAR-- VVIRTUALLY IDENTICAL MANDATE, WHICH IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT. NOW IN ADDITION TO THAT SITUATION OUR RELATIONS HAVE SUFFERED THREE SERIOUS BLOWS IN THE EYES OF ARGENTINE IN THE FORM OF EXIM BANK LETTER TO ALLIS

CHALMERS, ASST. SECY DERIAN'S STATEMENTS AS REPORTED BY PRESS SERVICES AND THOUGH NOT DIRECTLY RELATED, THE TRAGIV BOMBING OF THE LAMBRUSCHINI DAUGHTER. WRITEN PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR MY APOLOGY TO ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FOR USG RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS INDICATE THE SPONTANEITY OF THE SITUATION.

9. UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE HEAR FROM VIDELA-VIOLA COMBINE, I HAVE DIFFICULTY IN CONCEIVING A GAME PLAN WHICH PROVIDE EITHER SIDE WITH A SATISFACTORY RATIONALE FOR TALKS. THE DIFFICULTY UP TO NOW IS THAT GOA AND GENERAL PUBLIC FEEL THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY VISITING USG DIPLOMATS. THEY KEEP TELLING ME THEY SEE OUR VISITORS COMING AND GOING BUT WITHOUT IMMEDIATE RESULTS.

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10. ARGENTINES FEEL CHAGRINED THAT USG CONSIDERS THEIR IMPROVEMENTS MODEST. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOA FEELS OUR DEMANDS ARE EXCESSIVE DUE TO LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE. IN MY OPINION THE FEELING THAT USG IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AGAIST IT IS A MINOR PROBLEM AND IS ONLY USED TO CONFUSE THE ISSUES. HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE THE SORE SPOT. A VISITATION BY IAHCRC WOULD LESSEN OUR STRESS AND PERMIT US TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER NEEDY PROBLEMS. OUR POLICY IN THIS FIELD IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY'S TALENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM OPERATE WHEN THE TIMING AND THE ODDS ARE BETTER.

11. I WILL REPORT VIDELA'S REACTIONS IMMEDIATELY ON HEARING FROM VIOLA.
CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, AMBASSADORS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUENOS06458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850101-2486
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780839/aaaabgil.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1586635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 211039
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1665707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY AMBASSADOR VAKY TO BUENOS AIRES
TAGS: OVIP, US, AR, (VAKY, VIRON P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1586635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014